THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) It is too early to indicate grainwise production in each State as the final estimates of kharif foodgrains production for 1991-92 have not yet become due from the States and rabi sowings are in progress.

(b) The physical stocks of foodgrains on Central and State Governments account as on 1st November, 1991 was 14.9 million tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As a part of the effort to increase foreign exchange earnings, it has been decided to export 8 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1991-92 from the stocks of food Corporation of India. A ceiling of 7 lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice has been released for exports during 1991-92. Export of Basmati rice is on OGL. It has also been decided to export 5.61 lakh tonnes of sugar during 1991-92.

Return of Gulf Returnees to their Respective Gulf Country

3549. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN
SHRI P.C. THOMAS
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Gulf returnees in India who have not yet returned to their respective Gulf country including Kuwait; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for their speedy return to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Government have taken various steps to facilitate and speed the return of the Indian Nationals repatriated from the Gulf; these include waiver of Immigration Clearance Requirement, speedier issuance of passports and reintroduction of Air India flights to Kuwait. While an estimated 60,000 out of 150,000 have already gone back to Kuwait, at present about 1000 a week are going back.

[*Translation*]

Inquiry Committee Regarding Tunnel Accident in Orissa

3550. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up any Committee to inquire into the tunnel accident in Kalahandi district of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee on safety of tunnel work of Upper Indravati Hydro-Electric Project has been set up on 3rd of September, 1991 under the Chairmanship of Member (Hd), Central Water Commission, comprising the representatives from Central Water Commission and Central Electricity Authority to ascertain the causes which led to the flooding of the tunnel on 28.7.1991, to ascertain the extent and quantum of damage to the machineries and other works of national Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. and to examine the construction planning with a view to secure safety of the works. The Committee visited the project site from 14th to 18th November, 1991.

A Joint Team of the Chief Engineers of Central Water Commission and Central